

Art Unit: 3695

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. This action is in reply to Applicant's response filed on 08 June 2009.
2. Claims 1, 3, 6, and 11-14 have been amended.
3. Claims 1, 6, 11, and 12 have been amended by Examiner's Amendment.
4. Claims 2 and 7 have been canceled by Examiner's Amendment.
5. Claims 1, 3-6, and 8-14 are currently pending, have been examined, and have been deemed allowable.

Response to Arguments

6. **New Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101**

7. Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention was directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Examiner appreciates the Applicant's prompt attention to these deficiencies and hereby withdraws such rejections.

8. **Prior Art Rejections**

9. The Applicant's amendments to the claimed invention have overcome the prior art of record. Accordingly, the rejections to claims 1-14 have been withdrawn.

Reasons for Allowance

10. The Applicant's claimed invention is directed toward a method, system, and computer readable medium for providing travel expense reports. Prior art methods and systems consist of various travel-related expense management techniques to track and account for business costs. For example, Schoolery et al. (5,570,283) discloses a corporate travel controller which interconnects travelers, travel agents, and airline customer reservation systems (CRSs) to monitor the costs associated with the travel process. Similarly, Buchanan (6,009,408) discloses a database management system for storing records associated with travel expenses including itineraries, costs, and other travel related details. However, none of the cited references nor the prior art disclose a system for providing travel expense reports which includes connecting a plurality of disparate travel sources and a plurality of disparate financial sources and conditioning the data extracted from these sources into a single format based on metadata operations gathered from parsing a natural language query received for requesting a travel expense report. Accordingly, the claimed invention, in light of the Examiner's Amendment, is deemed allowable.

Art Unit: 3695

Examiner's Amendment

11. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

12. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Howard Sobelman on 17 September 2009.

13. Please see attached.

Art Unit: 3695

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to THOMAS M. HAMMOND III whose telephone number is (571)270-1829. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:00AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Kyle can be reached on (571) 272-674646. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Thomas M Hammond III
Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3695
US Patent & Trademark Office
17 September 2009

/Thu Thao Havan/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3695